

opcBulletin

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • JANUARY 1996

Lapham to Speak at Jan. 25 Scholarship Lunch

Mark your calendar: **Lewis H. Lapham**, editor of *Harper's Magazine* and a leading American intellectual voice, will be guest speaker at the OPC Foundation's annual scholarship lunch on Thursday, Jan. 25.

The luncheon begins at noon on the 50th floor of the McGraw-Hill Building, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, between 48th and 49th streets, in Manhattan.

Lapham, author of several books including *Money and Class in America*, will discuss how the United States' embrace of a global economy and the free flow of capital are beneficial to American "elites" in business, entertainment and finance. At the same time, these trends spell greater competition and less security for many in the U.S. Is America becoming a two-tiered society? What is the media's role in explaining these developments? Lapham's thought-provoking speech will be entitled, "The New American Ruling Class."

Lapham joined the OPC in 1989. A native of San Francisco, he started his career as a reporter for the *San Francisco Examiner* and worked for the *New York Herald Tribune* from 1960 to 1962. He joined *Harper's* in 1971. As

editor, he has lectured at many of the nation's leading universities and has appeared frequently on television and radio.



CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

Lewis H. Lapham

Prior to Lapham's remarks, the OPC Foundation will present five scholarships to college students who submitted essays on an aspect of international news coverage. A total of 71 students from around the country applied for the scholarships. Judging the essays was a

panel headed by *Parade's* **Bernie Gavzer**. Joining him were **Dwight Sargeant, Sam Petok, Josephine Lyons, Robert Solby, Fred Ferguson** and **Ed Jackson**.

The total number of scholarships has increased from four last year to five. The Foundation is pleased that individual donations, combined with a gift from the Freedom Forum, have nearly made it possible to endow an annual H.L. Stevenson Memorial Scholarship.

Senior representatives of the Freedom Forum will present a check for \$5,000 to the Foundation at the luncheon and announce plans to build a memorial in Washington for foreign correspondents killed in the line of duty.

Freelancer's Lament: How Technology Is Changing the World for the Worse

By **Thomas Goltz**

They called me "the Caucasus Cowboy" for roaming the high plains in the years the old Soviet Union was falling apart. I was there when a bunch of ornery Armenians did in the Azeris in the hills of the Black Garden, and then vice versa, and when Eduard Shevardnadze made his Last Stand in a town called Sukhumi. And then there was Chechnya.

For years, a lone-hand stringer like me has been able to get to the news in these difficult places and get it out before packs of staff journalists start arriving. But all that's changing as more editors and producers at headquarters rely on things like the Internet and satellite phones to get faster coverage and direct that coverage to their liking. In some senses, it's every bit as dramatic a change in the news business as when the telex replaced the telegraph.

One reason why all this is negative is that the new breed of contract cowpokes travel in packs. They spend so much

time communicating with headquarters that they don't seem to have much contact with the Azeris or Georgians or Chechens. That breeds a certain superficiality into what they do compared with the old hands who've invested time learning the languages and penetrating



Thomas Goltz

the societies. In the new era, speed is of the essence and conformity the rule.

The new technology-intensive style of coverage is also changing the whole economics of freelancing. The reason is simple: the basic expenses involved in the timely filing of foreign news are rising to levels where individuals not directly supported by large institutions cannot afford to do so.

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Foreign Correspondents Scarce in Iran

By Bill McClure

LONDON—A few week ago, I returned to Tehran, Iran, after an absence of nine years to set up a segment for Mike Wallace and "60 Minutes." Despite the friction that exists between Tehran and Washington, I was astonished to find the keen interest and knowledge most Iranians had in American political events and American life in general.

Since it took about two months to get a visa, I imagined hostility from border guards and customs at the airport. Nothing could have been smoother, even less delays than in Tel Aviv! I discovered a U.S. passport was not unusual since many Iranians who immigrated to the States after the Shah's downfall return frequently for visits with their new American passports—and are encouraged by the Islamic leaders to do so.

The foreign press corps in Iran, however, is very depleted. The only full time staff correspondent from the West is a French journalist who runs Agence France Presse's bureau. There are no other agencies or specials, and the television coverage by CNN, WTN and AP-TV is strictly by Iranian freelancers or by handout from the state broadcasting service, IRIB.

The largest representation from the outside were the four staff and resident correspondents from Japanese media! Since the embargo on all trade and intercourse with America, Japan is grabbing up the economic and cultural ties. But every government office I vis-

ited had a television set tuned to CNN.

There are no Western periodicals permitted. Still, one can find the earmarked *Time* or *Newsweek* or *Der Spiegel* around the hotels used by foreigners. Otherwise, there are no Western books, videos, or music tapes.

Of course, private homes have videos of films not yet seen in London

and periodicals of all the banned cultures. Smuggling and bootlegging of European and American distractions has become a specialized art—as only the Iranians can perfect.

Bill McClure, an OPC member based in London with CBS News, is a producer for "60 Minutes."

Miami Press Center Links Americas

By Elinor Griest

Miami has joined the ranks of major U.S. cities offering domestic and foreign correspondents a "home away from home."

The recently established Greater Miami International Press Center is a bilingual base for news people at two locations: downtown and at the airport.

It offers free up-to-date telecommunications setups, on-line data bases, research assistance, and local contacts for out-of-town journalists.

Launched last spring following President Clinton's December 1994 "Summit" meeting with Latin American presidents, the nonprofit center is a cooperative effort between business, civic leaders and local government. IBM, for example, has donated personal computers, printers, modems, phones, faxes, copiers; Metropolitan Dade County provides the space at both branches.

Board Chairman Roberto Suarez, publisher emeritus of Miami's *El Nuevo Herald*, says the venture aims to strengthen communication between the

Americas and to promote national and international awareness of Greater Miami as "a major global center for business, trade, finance, tourism, education and health care."

The Miami facilities join a network of privately funded International Press Centers operating in Chicago, Seattle, Houston and Atlanta—all linked to the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), which sponsors federally funded Foreign Press Centers in New York, Los Angeles and Washington.

The center's primary location is in the heart of downtown Miami, at the Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 N.W. First St., suite 108. (305) 350 9930, fax (305) 350-9989. It is handily close to the independently run Miami International Press Club at the Sheraton Biscayne Bay Hotel.

A satellite facility offers 24-hour availability at Miami International Airport, on the fourth floor of Concourse B. (305) 869-1331, fax (305) 869-1343.

For further information, contact Carlos Martinez Barraqué, (305) 350-9930.

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Jordan Struggles to Retain Press Freedoms

By Kirk Albrecht

AMMAN—Newspapers shut down. Editors jailed. Lawsuits against both local and international journalists. Sound like a nightmare for the press? Well, it's happening in Jordan, which until recently was one of the Middle East's most open countries for journalism.

To be fair, the press here has come a long way in a short time. Gone are the days when more than half the evening news was devoted to endless scenes of smiling dignitaries shaking hands or sitting in oversized chairs. And the print media have made remarkable strides, covering important issues and taking on government at the same time.

When martial law was lifted in the late 1980s and democratic institutions were allowed, it became apparent that the law governing the press would have to be overhauled. Jordan's current Press & Publications Law was introduced in April 1993 amid criticism from both the press and lawmakers alike. Journalists worried that ambiguous prohibitions against harming "national unity," "confidence in the national currency," and things which encourage "disharmony" could easily be manipulated by both the government and judiciary as a means to silence a free press. "Everyone agrees it wasn't a very good law," says **George Hawatmeh**, editor in chief of the English-language *Jordan Times*.

The first two years of the law saw a proliferation of newspapers and magazines, and some real reporting of national issues. It also witnessed an aggressive tabloid press, which openly criticized government policy and shocked readers with pictures of molested children, murders, and moderate cleavage. Many conservatives worried about a Pandora's box opening before their eyes, a press with little self-control. "Many climbed in who had no idea of journalistic ethics," says former Minister of Information **Dr. Mahmoud Al Sherif**, who helped draft the current law.

A tug-of-war between government and press began last fall. **Salameh Ne'matt**, correspondent for the London-based *Al Hayat* Arabic daily, was thrown into prison for three days after he wrote a story alleging that 42 Jordanian journalists, businessmen, and officials were on the Iraqi payroll. He was charged with breaking two articles

in Jordan's Press & Publications Law - article 9, because it was alleged he did not present his material "in an objective, integrated, and balanced way"; and article 40, which prohibits "articles which damage national unity."

The state did not officially charge Ne'matt. Instead, it was a fellow journalist, local columnist **Tareq Masarwah**, who writes glowingly of most any Iraqi action. While the case is still pending, Ne'matt—who is Jordanian—says he'll stand by the story, but he is faced with a dilemma: "Ethically, I can't reveal my sources, but legally I am required to. I hope it won't come down to that." King Hussein reportedly was infuriated at the arrest, which was done while he and the Prime Minister were out of the country, but he is leaving the case to the courts to decide.

By far the most potentially explosive press case erupted after the tabloid *Al Bilad* ran a banner headline following Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination proclaiming "One Less Murderer!" King Hussein, deeply grieved by Rabin's death, reacted swiftly. Addressing a gathering of police, security, and military officers a few days later, he called for tougher controls on a press he felt had gone too far. The King said those who cross "the red lines" should be punished, sending shivers through journalists who now had to try to decide,

just where were those red lines?

Word spread quickly that a series of stricter amendments to the existing Press & Publications Law would be pushed through the cabinet and current session of Parliament, including heavier punishment for convicted transgressors (up to 3 years in prison), and making sure chief editors of newspapers had at least 7 years experience in the profession. The government has assured the press no changes are in the offing, but nerves are on edge, and editors believe while no action has yet been taken, it's coming. In late December the King invited newspaper editors to the Palace where on national TV he again warned of stricter limits if the press isn't "more responsible in dealing with the issues at hand."

The mainstream press, which has been opening up in the past year, is worried that the excesses of the tabloids will stifle their growing freedom. "If the government decides to crack down through law, then the mainstream press will suffer," says Hawatmeh. "Most of us think the law needs more time before any changes are made."

Jordan's self-styled "experiment in democracy" is producing, naturally, some teething pain. Dr. Al Sherif says it's inherent in the relationship between the press and the state. "Their social functions are diametrically opposed," he says. "All freedoms are bound to be misused by some people, but that is not a reason to stop the freedoms."

Kirk Albrecht is an Amman-based freelancer specializing in business and technology issues.



Kirk Albrecht



Storm clouds loom over Jordan's media landscape.

FREELANCER'S LAMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

In the hoary days of the past, one filed by means of the lowly telex (or dictation). It was an always an irritating experience. First you had to punch your copy, and then wait for a line—which could often take hours.

But it was a level playing field. Everyone was subject to the same rules—that is, everyone was subject to the same state of telecommunications within a given country or region thereof. The lines were up or the lines were down, full stop. And the basic expenses involved were low: sending a news feature from, say, Istanbul to New York in 1985 might cost \$15. For a stringer or freelancer, this meant that one could send stories on spec because most newspapers had no problem in refunding this expense, even if the story itself went unused.

Then came the fax and its sister, the modem. Both were technological advancements that gave an edge to reporters who could afford the machines (as opposed to staff reporters who got them on loan from their institutions.) After I went electronic in the late 1980s, for example, my income soared—but so did my telephone bills.

Then came a new and pernicious development that struck a side-blow at stringer and freelancehood in the field—on-line services and E-mail. The phenomenon allowed regional big-feet to scan not only what was on the wires about a given event, but what other papers were writing as well as whatever information was appearing on any given “web” site on the Net, and then cobble it all together into a news dispatch.

One predictable result was that most stories about a given subject began to take on the look of conventional wisdom thanks to the electronic recycling process involved—from the wires to the papers to the Web and back again.

But it's the satellite telephone that seems certain to spell the end of stringership and freelancing as many of us have known it. The start-up price of a portable satellite telephone is currently around \$15,000—a sum clearly beyond the means of all stringers, save for the independently wealthy. Add to that the line cost: depending on which up-link station one uses, a minute of use can cost up to \$40—even on a call back. You can figure on spending \$400 to file a 1,000-word story into automatic dicta-

tion; more if one has to spell out obscure names to a live editor. That is more than said stringer or freelancer will receive for the story itself.

Even if a newspaper is willing to pay for a “bat phone” file from the field, usually the only satellites available are those owned by the wire services. And all freelancers and stringers know only too well that if the wires are there, most editors will tell you that they are well covered—and there's no need for independent story.

The moral:

***Get a job as a staffer
at a news organization
with deep pockets.***

The growing crisis for stringers and freelancers was rammed home to me with a vengeance during my last extended trip abroad—a five-month stint in and out of war-torn Chechnya. Due to the enormous expense of transportation and accommodation (most hacks budgeted \$2,000 a week to work the war-zone), I soon discovered that I was only able to function as a sidekick to journalists with institutional funding who wrote off lots of my expenses for the pleasure of my company in the war-zone.

My two main companions were **Lawrence Sheets** of Reuters and then **Andrew Harding** of the BBC. We did very good work together. But the down side was that while I was able to compile notes for longer magazine pieces that are now becoming a book, I could not file on any sort of regular basis due to the high cost of satellite phoning. Even pitching an idea on spec to many of my traditional outlets was simply impossible because I didn't want to stick Lawrence or Andrew with triple-digit bills.

Despite this, I did have a measure of success—although almost by coincidence. Lawrence and I broke the story of the Samashki massacre of April 7, 1995, when Soviet troops drugged themselves into a more violent state of mind before attacking. My 1,200-word file led the foreign news in the London *Sunday Times*—but it was only filed because the deputy editor had heard me on a BBC two-way and decided to chase me down and had his paper pay for a half-hour dictation that probably cost over \$1,000 to collect. *The New York Times* used a

paragraph from Lawrence's copy. They sent a staffer a full month later, and ran the story on the front page. If you freelance in television, it's even more technologically challenging. The BBC's Harding and I went to Chechnya's conflict zone in May to monitor the ceasefire called by Boris Yeltsin to mark V-E Day in Moscow. I was working for ABC news. Although I was able to keep ABC's Moscow desk informed of developments via Andrew's “bat phone,” I never managed to file anything at all—not even dramatic footage of a Russian helicopter gunship attack on the mountain town of Shatoi.

The reason was simple: getting video images from the rebel-held mountains of southern Chechnya to Moscow required either traveling with your own satellite dish capable of sending images—or crossing the frontlines and running multiple checkpoints in time to catch the last flight to Moscow from the nearest airport. In short, there was simply no way for me, a freelancer, to get “fresh” film to Moscow in time.

The moral of the story? Get a job as a staffer at a news organization with deep pockets. More and more of us information cowboys are going to be hanging up our spurs and start bustin' sod.

Thomas Goltz, an OPC member, has retreated to his home base in Montana to work on his book. He can be reached at 406-222-6460 (phone) or by e-mail at goltz@sunrise.alpinet.com.

Cronkite to Receive President's Award

Walter Cronkite has accepted the OPC's invitation to receive the President's Award for Lifetime Achievement at the 1995 Annual Awards Dinner on April 25 at the Grand Hyatt in New York.

The veteran CBS news anchor last appeared at an OPC function in June 1994 to help mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

“Cronkite's agreement to come and be honored seems guaranteed to make this year's dinner particularly special,” said Club President **Bill Holstein**.

Other recipients of the award in recent years have included **Robert MacNeil** and **John Chancellor**.



Press Clubs Open Doors Under Reciprocal Agreements

By Elinor Griest

The OPC's worldwide press connections continue to expand. With three new U.S. clubs (Chicago, Miami and St. Louis) and five new ones abroad (Australia, Israel, Russia, South Korea and Spain), there are now 22 clubs where you will be a welcome guest.

The London Press Club has moved from the Wig and Pen on The Strand. Though still one club, with a single set of directors, it has split into two branches to accommodate more members of the working press.

UNITED STATES

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THE GREATER LOS ANGELES PRESS CLUB, Radisson-Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, 7000 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 334, Hollywood, CA 90028.

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PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

BANGKOK: Thai business tycoon **Sondhi Limthongkul**, 48, who once tried to buy UPI, is bankrolling a new regional newspaper, *Asia Times*, with an initial investment of \$20 million. Started in December, the newspaper is published in Bangkok and also printed via satellite in Hong Kong and Singapore. The daily aims to be a general newspaper covering all Asia with a modest starting circulation of 30,000. Sondhi said that the reign of Western-owned, multi-national media organizations in Asia is about to end and he is leading the charge. "I'm not saying that Western journalists are bad," he told **Edward A. Gargan** of *The New York Times* in Hong Kong. "What I'm trying to imply is that the major players in the whole Asia-Pacific that are coming from the West like to parachute their reporters in, spend a few years in Asia and claim they're Asian experts. Then they go back home." But Sondhi hired some Westerner staffers including **Brad Martin**, formerly of *Newsweek* and *The Asian Wall Street Journal*, in Tokyo; **Stephen Brookes** of the Washington magazine *Insight*, in Rangoon (going in and out); **Dough Tsuruoka**, formerly *Far Eastern Economic Review*, in New York; and **Desmond Dodd**, formerly *Institutional Investor*, in Hong Kong. Other staffers and stringers report from Bangkok, Singapore, Beijing, Shanghai, Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Sydney, India, Islamabad, Seoul, Hanoi, Tokyo, Washington, London and Paris. Sondhi also owns other newspapers and magazines in Asia and the U.S.

BOCA RATON, Fla.: Award-winning NBC News veteran **Irving R. Levine** has retired. Although best known for his economics reporting, Levine also spent many years at NBC as a foreign correspondent, covering such historic events as the Berlin airlift, the Kennedy-Khrushchev Vienna summit and the world's first heart transplant, performed by South African surgeon, Dr. Christian Barnard. Winner of an OPC award for outstanding radio and TV reporting from abroad, he will join Lynn University in Boca Raton as dean of international studies. He also will continue taping a weekly spot for CNBC.

HALLANDALE, Fla.: **Thurston Macauley** and his wife, OPC member **Doris**, are looking for a publisher for the Nuremberg Diary that he compiled while covering the Nazi war crimes tribunal for INS in 1946. "I could only stand Nuremberg for a month, but the month I spent there was an experience I can never forget," Thurston writes. "Every night, after sitting in the gloomy courtroom with its armed white-helmeted military police, I set down my own impressions of the trial, which I never could have sent to a news service, my own contribution to history. I wrote from my ringside seat as a newspaperman reporting a grim epoch in history." Longtime residents of France, the Macauleys have been living in Florida for several months.



Thurston Macauley

HONG KONG: The Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong, which maintains reciprocal relations with the OPC, is taking steps for its survival after 1997 when the British colony returns to Chinese rule. President **Hans Vriens** said his club "has a responsibility to make the 'one country, two systems' idea work [referring to Chinese leader **Deng Xiaoping**'s promise that Hong Kong will be allowed to keep its capitalist system for 50 years under Chinese rule]....To put our efforts on a sounder footing, it has been decided to form a committee to advise the Board of Governors on what steps to take to improve the relationships between the FCC and China and the future SAR [Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong] government." Writing in his club's monthly magazine, *The Correspondent*, Vriens said the club will organize a trip for members through neighboring Guangdong province to meet and talk with Chinese now living under Beijing rule. The club also is interested in informal meetings with the 70 persons assigned to the Hong Kong branch of China's Xinhua News Agency. In addition to reporters, Xinhua in Hong Kong is staffed by offi-

cials who represent the Chinese government. Not all Hong Kong correspondents are optimistic about the future of press freedom after China takes over. Speaking to the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, **Donna Liu**, CNN's Hong Kong bureau chief, said: "It is difficult to believe that the feistiest of Hong Kong's papers will be able to continue unhindered under the SAR government."

MOSCOW: **Steve LeVine**, a freelance writer who works for *The New York Times* and *Newsweek*, was injured when a rocket-propelled grenade exploded near him outside the Chechen town of Urus Martin in December. Also wounded was his Georgian assistant, **Nana Kiknadze**. LeVine suffered shrapnel wounds and a broken leg.

NEW YORK: OPC member **Walter H. Diamond**, editor and economist in Overseas Press and Consultants, Hartsdale, N.Y., and his wife **Dorothy** are co-authors of a new book, *International Trust Laws and Analysis* (New York: Warren Gorham Lamont). The publishers said that the book "is the only publication available that provides the complete text of all foreign trust laws so readers can compare jurisdictions instantly and make the best trust decisions for their clients." Diamond, an OPC old-timer who joined the club in 1956, now has done 61 international tax and trade books, either alone or with his wife.



Walter H. Diamond

◆ *OPC Bulletin* editor **David S. Fondiller** has been promoted from reporter to staff writer at *Forbes*. In addition to writing business features, he will edit the magazine's "Follow-Throughs" column. Fondiller replaces staff writer **Michael Schuman**, who will join *The Wall Street Journal* as Seoul correspondent next month.

◆ After five years in the job, **Eric W. Ober**, 53, will step down Jan. 12 as president of CBS News. The network, which was recently purchased by Westinghouse Electric Corp., had been widely expected to replace him after mounting disappointment with his per-

formance. Ober's replacement will be **Andrew Heyward**, the 45-year-old executive producer of "CBS Evening News."

◆
Hank Ackerman, who worked for AP in South America and elsewhere before becoming a general executive in the wire service's Newspaper Membership Department, in November was named director of marketing for AP's new multimedia news programming, scheduled to start in early 1996. Ackerman, 53, joined AP in 1972 and served as news editor in Buenos Aires and bureau chief in Lima, Peru; Caracas, Venezuela; Atlanta, Detroit, New Orleans and Cleveland. Available to AP members on Internet's World Wide Web, the new service will provide continuously updated coverage of the day's top news and special events in a format combining text, photos, graphics, audio and video.



Hank Ackerman assigned new posts in New York. **Kelly Smith Tunney**, former bureau chief in Korea, was named assistant to AP President **Louis D. Boccardi**. **Brian Friedman**, a former news editor in Moscow, was named deputy AP sports editor.

◆
For the third straight year, the international story most covered by the three U.S. television networks in 1995 was Bosnia, according to the *Tyndall Report*, a newsletter that tracks TV coverage. Through November, the three networks had aired 965 minutes on the Bosnia civil war. Second most-covered overseas story was the Chechnya revolt, 151 minutes. But the big three devoted much more, 1,669 minutes, to the **O. J. Simpson** case. On Bosnia, ABC aired 388 minutes, CBS 311 minutes and NBC 266 minutes, the report said. Since 1992, Tyndall said that ABC coverage of Bosnia totaled 1,297 minutes (20 percent of its overseas reporting), CBS 1,052 minutes (19 percent) and NBC 850 minutes (18 percent).

◆
Newsweek announced in December several new editors for its domestic and international editions. **Mark Whitaker** became managing editor for the U.S. edition, and **Ann McDaniel** and **Lynn**

Staley were appointed assistant managing editors. On the international side, **Alexis Gelber**, assistant managing editor for the U.S. edition, also became managing editor of *Newsweek International*, which is published in six editions: Atlantic, Pacific and Latin America in English; *Nihon*

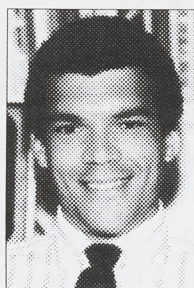


Alexis Gelber international editions. **Ron Javers** joined the overseas editions as assistant managing editor and executive editor of the Japanese edition.

PARIS: **Harry Dunphy**, AP manager for France, and **Pierre Legros**, manager of AP's French services, were setting up their own distribution system in France in December after AP and Agence France Presse agreed to end their cooperative arrangement for distribution of news and photos. The agreement dated back to the last century.

SHELTON, Wash.: Longtime OPCer **Wilmott Ragsdale** remains as active as ever. A World War II correspondent in Europe who retired 10 years ago from the University of Wisconsin faculty, he reports: "As with all retirement, there is so much to do that there is never time enough. I swim in Puget Sound every day. Now 54 degrees." Several years ago at age 82, Ragsdale climbed 13,500-foot Mt. Kinabalu in Borneo.

TOKYO: *Newsweek* has moved to fill its bureau chief's slot, which was vacant for more than a year following **Bill Powell**'s departure. **Jeffrey Bartholet** will be transferred from Jerusalem to take up the post.



Mark Whitaker

Ban in Japanese; *Hankuk Pan* in Korean; and as a co-venture in Australia as *The Bulletin with Newsweek*. **Michael Glennon** was promoted from senior editor to the No. 3 editing post for the



Mike Glennon

◆
Bernie Krisher, former Tokyo *Newsweek* correspondent who started the newspaper *The Cambodian Daily* in Phnom Penh two years ago and collected relief goods for Cambodians, has shifted his focus to North Korea. Krisher, who lives in Tokyo, said that in October he "read that the U.S. government had donated only \$25,000 toward a UN international appeal to help 500,000 North Korean farmers who lost their homes, possessions and crops in one of the worst floods in that country's history." Considering the American aid inadequate, Krisher launched an appeal over Internet's World Wide Web. By December he had received \$20,000 in cash donations to purchase powdered milk for children and 1,400 boxes of clothes and blankets that his wife **Akiko** repacked and labeled for shipment. Then Krisher and his son **Joseph** flew to Pyongyang to meet the ship, see the relief supplies off-loaded and visit several of the devastated villages where he handed over donations to flood victims.

TORONTO: **David Jolley**, publisher of *The Toronto Star*, has been elected president of Canadian Press news agency and its subsidiaries, Presse Canadienne, Broadcast News and Press News.

UNITED NATIONS: Veteran newshound **Sylvana Foa** has returned to New York as chief spokesperson for the United Nations. Foa, who had a long career with United Press International in Southeast Asia, Europe and New York, had been chief spokesman for the U.N. High Commission on Refugees, based in Europe. She replaces **Joe Sills**.

WASHINGTON: *Forbes'* longtime Washington bureau manager, assistant managing editor **Howard Banks**, transplants to London in January to assume the biweekly's one-person European bureau there. Banks, who is British, replaces **Peter Fuhrman**, who has left the magazine. Banks, 57, joined *Forbes* in 1982 after a lengthy stint at *The Economist*. He will be replaced in Washington by 27-year-old associate editor **Randall Lane**.

◆
OPCer **Joe Galloway** reports that the book he co-authored with retired Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore, *We Were* (Continued on Page 8)

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 7)

Soldiers Once...and Young, [New York: Random House 1992] has sold between 270,000 and 280,000 copies in hard and paper back. He believes the sales are a record for a book on the Vietnam War.

DECEASED: James (Scotty) Reston, 86, who died of cancer at his home in Washington on Dec. 6, was a foreign correspondent before he became a columnist and Washington bureau chief for *The New York Times*, writing on both domestic and international issues. He won three OPC awards for interpretation of international news, two Pulitzer Prizes, the George Polk Memorial Award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Awards. One of Reston's two Pulitzer Prize's was an international scoop: Covering the 1944 Dumbarton Oaks conference on organizing the United Nations, Reston's articles disclosed the substance of secret documents being circulated between the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and China on the proposed framework of the U.N.

◆
Charles Gillett, an OPC member from 1946 till his death Dec. 4, was an institution at the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau and in the American travel industry. He was 80.

He joined the OPC and the Bureau shortly after World War II, where he'd been combat correspondent and Public Relations Officer of the 9th Armored

Irene Kuhn, OPC Co-Founder, Dies

Irene Corbally Kuhn, a founding member of the OPC in 1939, died Dec. 30 at the Briar Crest-Deaconess Nursing Home in Concord, Mass., where she had lived for the last year. She was 97.

Kuhn traveled on five continents and penned books as well as newspaper and magazine articles. Her many writings included a volume of memoirs, *Assigned to Adventure* (Lippincott, 1938).

After reporting for *The Syracuse Herald* and working in Paris for *The Chicago Tribune*, she went to China in 1922 and became a reporter for the English-language *Shanghai Evening News* and then for the International



Irene Kuhn

Division. He campaigned through France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Austria. He reached the rank of major and was awarded the Bronze Star. After V-E Day he served as Public Relations Officer for the 102nd Infantry Division in Germany.

His last OPC event was the D-Day anniversary lunch, where he held a reunion with friends from the Battle for the Ramagen Bridge.

As president of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, he launched New York's "Big Apple" campaign to revive

News Service in Honolulu.

In 1926 she returned to New York City, joined *The Daily News*, and concentrated on feature writing. She spent a few years as a staff reporter for *The Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, and after returning briefly to *The Daily News* and working for other news organizations, in 1939 she joined the National Broadcasting Company, for which she reported and worked until 1950.

After leaving NBC, she wrote a syndicated column and did other writing, including reminiscences that appeared in *Gourmet* magazine in the 1970s and 1980s.

Her husband, Bert L. Kuhn, also a journalist, died in 1926 after four years of marriage. She is survived by a daughter, Rene Kuhn Bryant of Lexington, Mass.; a granddaughter, and two great-grandchildren.

enthusiasm when the city went bankrupt, brought New York's first national political convention in 50 years, took part in the centenaries of the Brooklyn Bridge and Statue of Liberty. He served two terms on the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration's advisory board. When he retired, Gov. Mario Cuomo cited his "long and distinguished service in promoting New York."

He was one of the cadre of World War II correspondents who populated the fledgling OPC, and a cheerful and popular regular at the dining room and bar for many years. —George Burns

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCH

with Lewis H. Lapham,
editor of *Harper's*

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